

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY GROUP

January 10, 2001
MAG Office
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

**Jim Hull, Mesa, Chair	**Duncan Miller, Paradise Valley
*Betsy Wise, Carefree	**Ralph Spencer for Sandy Teetsel, Peoria
*Alan Deloera, Chandler	Greg Binder, Phoenix
**Peter Putterman, Fountain Hills	**Debbie Kohn, Scottsdale
*Shawn Woolley, Gilbert	*John Laue, Tempe
*Jerry Wightman, Glendale	*Rosemarie Martinez-Booth for Ralph Velez,
*John Imig, Goodyear	Tolleson
**Lynn Dunn, Litchfield Park	*Craig Stender, ADOT
**Cary Parker, Maricopa County	Randi Alcott, RPTA

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy

OTHERS PRESENT

**Mark Johnson, Guadalupe	Ray Quay, Phoenix
**Audrey Skidmore, MAG	Rita Walton, MAG
Heidi Pahl, MAG	**Dick Greggory, Youngtown

** Participated via telephone conference call.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chairman, Jim Hull. The following members attended via telephone conference call: Jim Hull, Peter Putterman, Lynn Dunn, Cary Parker, Duncan Miller, Ralph Spencer, and Debbie Kohn. Jim Hull thanked Debbie Kohn for chairing the December 21, 2000 meeting in his absence.

2. Approval of December 21, 2000 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Debbie Kohn, seconded by Lynn Dunn and unanimously recommended to approve the December 21, 2000 meeting minutes.

3. Prioritization of Projects for Regional Federal Funding: Draft FY 2002-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Rita Walton said that Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Manager, sent a letter notifying all MAGTAG members about the additional STP and CMAQ funding. Ms. Walton noted that the deadline for requests for consideration for this additional funding was January 5, 2001. She noted that at the last MAGTAG meeting, TAG members were requested to identify any additional projects.

Rita Walton stated that the following projects were mentioned at last TAG meeting: Teleconferencing Hub Site Support, Training and Marketing; Additional Teleconferencing Sites; Telecommunications Strategic Plan; and Regional Community Wide Area Network (WAN) Implementation. Ms. Walton noted that an additional project is being requested by the City of Phoenix that was not mentioned at the last TAG meeting, namely the Electronic Village (E-Village) Search Engine.

Ms. Walton mentioned that all TAG CMAQ projects were considered non-quantifiable projects by the MAG Air Quality staff and therefore did not receive a CMAQ score. Rita Walton informed that the requested projects need to be ranked according to funding source. She stated that there are three project requests for Surface Transportation Planning (STP) funding and two project requests for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. Ms. Walton gave a brief overview of all the projects. Following she announced that Paul Ward suggested changing the E-Village funding source from CMAQ to STP as it was a more appropriate funding source. The MAGTAG agreed.

Ray Quay gave an update on the E-Village Search Engine Project.

Ray Quay stated that he presented the idea of an E-Village to MAGTAG approximately two years ago. Mr. Quay gave a brief update on what he has done with E-Village since then, stating that a resource directory was created and a relationship with IBM developed.

Ray Quay explained that the Central Arizona Electronic Village Coalition (CAEV) is a coalition of public and private sector groups, including many MAG member agencies. CAEV is seeking funding for the E-Village to bring better organization to finding community information on-line. The main goal of the E-Village project is to create a local search engine that would search through a database of local information and give people a list of local resources. He noted that once the search engine is developed the CAEV members have agreed to maintain it.

Jim Hull asked who will be hosting the search engine. Ray Quay replied that Arizona State University (ASU) has agreed to host the hardware and the City of Phoenix will maintain the software running on the server. Mr. Quay explained that Phoenix has not developed the search engine software therefore it is unclear what type of maintenance will be required for the software at this time.

Jim Hull stated that he thinks E-Village is an outstanding effort and he supports the project.

Peter Putterman asked when the Inteco Corporation of Connecticut's survey was conducted. Ray Quay replied about a year ago.

Debbie Kohn asked if MAG has ever done a partnership project like this before with a group that is not entirely MAG members. Rita Walton replied that this project is similar to other arrangements in the sense that this project would be a consultant relationship where MAG would hire a consultant to perform the tasks and expect deliverables. MAG has also had partnership arrangements with other member agencies and outside groups.

Debbie Kohn asked who will make decisions on the E-Village project and if MAG makes the decisions will CAEV accept this. Ray Quay said their main goal is to create a search engine for the citizens to locate on-line information easily and if MAG makes decisions inline with the goal CAEV would support this, but if MAG does not proceed with meeting this goal then CAEV would pursue other avenues in order to meet the goal. Rita Walton stated that she does not anticipate this will be an issue.

Debbie Kohn asked how E-Village would fit in with Arizona Partnership for the New Economy (APNE) creation of an E-Government portal. Greg Binder responded that these two projects compliment each other. He noted that since they are both different projects there is no duplication of effort. Ray Quay clarified that the E-Government portal has an e-commerce focus and it is not intended that a search engine be created through this project. Mr. Quay noted that an enormous amount of information in the communities is not government based therefore the State of Arizona is not going to provide this information in a search engine and this is one of the reasons that information is so fragmented now. He noted that CAEV would allow anyone to search local information through the placement of the CAEV search engine on any web site. He noted that the integration of the search engine on the Arizona State web site and other web sites is positive.

Jim Hull asked what kind of marketing program will be created for the E-Village. Ray Quay stated this project would also include marketing, training on how to use the search engine, and an evaluation component. As part of the marketing program, CAEV would also create a promotional campaign where CAEV would extend to communities the offer to participate in the development and use of the search engine and get cities to promote the CAEV search engine.

Jim Hull asked if the three components will be funded out of the \$200,000 request. Ray Quay responded yes and added that there is also match money from the Community Forum and other organizations.

Randi Alcott asked if the Teleconferencing Hub Site Support, Training and Marketing did not get funded would the project fail. Rita Walton replied, she does not believe that MAG would let this project fail but emphasized that she cannot speak for MAG. Randi Alcott asked if there is consultant assistance in the Hub Site Support request for funding. Rita Walton replied that the requested funding for Teleconferencing Hub Site Support, Training and Marketing may include professional training from a consultant.

Debbie Kohn asked if the Teleconferencing and Telecommuting Hub Site Support, Training and Marketing requested amount of funds would need to be increased if the Regional Videoconferencing System (RVS) is heavily used. Rita Walton said the amount of money allocated for Hub Site Support is adequate now but might need to be increased in the future.

Randi Alcott asked if MAGTAG needs to prioritize projects by year. Rita Walton replied all years are prioritized together.

Cary Parker stated that he thinks E-village should be part of the Strategic Plan and therefore TAG should complete the Strategic Plan first. Mr. Parker asked when the last Telecommunications Plan was created. Heidi Pahl responded that in 1996 the Telecommunications Plan for MAGTAG was created. Mr. Parker asked which member agencies are represented in CAEV. Rita Walton stated that she is involved in the CAEV to represent the MAG and member agencies. Ray Quay added that CAEV includes several members of MAG, including Tempe, Scottsdale, Phoenix, RPTA, and Maricopa County.

Greg Binder said that it makes sense to have a Strategic Plan first and include the E-Village as part of the plan and then he added that from a professional point of view it would be difficult to explain why a project is started without a plan.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

With a roll call vote the MAGTAG recommended the following priorities for STP funded requests: first Strategic Plan, second E-Village and third Hub Site Support.

Rita Walton explained the two projects for CMAQ funding, Additional Teleconferencing Sites and Regional Community Wide Area Network (WAN) Implementation.

Rita Walton said that CMAQ requests for these projects might be difficult to defend. Everyone agreed. Jim Hull said that without knowing the number of sites and location of sites it will be a difficult project to defend to the Transportation Review Committee (TRC).

Jim Hull said that it was very difficult for MAGTAG to get the Regional Community WAN Implementation approved at TRC because the amount of money requested was dependent on the results of the Study which has not yet been conducted. Mr. Hull stated that to ask for more money for this project or to move it up a couple years does not make sense at this time because the MAGTAG needs more information in order to justify doing so.

Debbie Kohn asked what MAGTAG would do if the Regional Community WAN Study was completed and no money was available until 2006 for Implementation. Rita Walton replied that \$1.6 million dollars is a lot of money and moving up \$1.6 million is difficult. Ms. Walton noted that MAG Management Committee is approving the recommendation of Kimley-Horn for Regional Community WAN Study today. Greg Binder said that it may be possible to break up the \$1.6 million and move some of it up which would help ease the gap between the Study and the Implementation. Peter Putterman questioned what the major technology will be five years from now.

Cary Parker stated that \$1.6 million dollars is not a lot of money to give to Cox or Qwest to lay dark fiber if that is what the Implementation is supposed to do. Debbie Kohn asked if MAG requested spreading some of the money out and TRC did not like that request would that jeopardize the funding. Rita replied no. Greg Binder asked if MAGTAG moves money forward can it be moved back. Rita Walton responded yes. Jim hull noted that TRC does not like placeholder dollars.

Rita Walton suggested leaving the Regional Community WAN Implementation alone this year and bring it forward next year when the TAG will have the results of the Study to give to TRC. Jim Hull agreed.

Randi Alcott made a motion and Lynn Dunn seconded, to withdraw the two CMAQ projects and prioritize the STP projects as: Strategic Plan first, E-Village second and Hub Site Support third. The vote was seven to one.

4. Announcements and Public Input

There were no announcements or public input.

5. Date of Next Meetings

Jim Hull asked if there was a MAGTAG meeting on January 11, 2001. Heidi Pahl stated no. Ms. Pahl informed that the next scheduled MAGTAG meeting will be held on January 25, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Saguaro room with telephone conference call capability.

Peter Putterman made a motion for adjournment and Greg Binder seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.